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SEN. EVERETT DIRKSEN, R-Ill., meets in a hallway of the Capitol yesterday with a delegation of angry farmers who arrived by tractor from Illinois to seek parity prices for farm products.

Dirksen Pulled From Midst of Angry Farmers

By LAWRENCE L. KNUTSON

WASHINGTON (AP) — Capitol police plucked Sen. Everett M. Dirksen from the midst of shouting, fist-shaking farmers yesterday ending a confrontation over protests that U.S. farm policies are leading to rural ruin.

The 200 farmers, wives and children—who drove from Illinois, Dirksen's home state, in a caravan of tractors—surrounded the Republican leader as he emerged from the Senate chamber.

They demanded a return to full parity in farm prices and a stronger voice for farmers on all future federal agricultural policies.

WHEN DIRKSEN told his constituents he is one of 20 senators supporting a bill to take up to 10 million acres of farmland out of production and to end existing farm programs within five years, he was answered with shouts of, "No! No!"

The shouting got louder when he responded to a request that he buy a bushel of grain at the parity price—$3.06 compared to about the present market value of about $1.05—by pulling a $20 bill from his wallet. He told the farmers to give the change and the wheat to the poor.

"We want parity, not charity," the farmers shouted, echoing the slogan that has been their rallying cry during the long trek from their east central Illinois homes.

"I'M TALKING," Dirksen boomed back, refusing to accept the return of the money or the sacks of grain piled at his feet.

He said his bill, which is backed by the American Farm Bureau Federation, would raise farm prices by cutting back production.

"What's wrong with a farm program tied to parity," a farmer in overalls shouted. "We'll take the land out of production now if you give us a fair price," another man said.

The noise attracted capitol police who wedged their way through the throng and opened a path for Dirksen to retreat to the Senate floor, where his colleagues were debating the surtax bill.